

# Quarterly NEWS-LETTER

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Founded in 1912, The Book Club of California is a non-profit association of book-lovers and collectors who have a special interest in Pacific Coast history, literature, and fine printing. Its chief aims are to further the interests of book collectors and to promote an understanding and appreciation of fine books.

The Club is limited to 875 members. When vacancies exist membership is open to all who are in sympathy with its aims and whose applications are approved by the Board of Directors. Regular membership involves no responsibilities beyond payment of the annual dues. Dues date from the month of the member's election. Regular membership is \$18.00; Sustaining \$30.00; Patron, \$100.00.

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# Quarterly NEWS-LETTER

# How to build A Poor Man's Library

By Michael Harrison\*

SALARY OF \$110.00 per month, from which was deducted \$2.00 per day for board, precluded purchases from Eberstadt's or participating in the auctions of Western Americana at the Anderson Galleries. This was my salary when I entered the National Park Service with station at the Grand Canyon National Park in Arizona. As a youngster born in the town graced for a relatively short period by the inventor Samuel Colt, later disgraced as the home of the assassin of William McKinley, it had always been a boyhood dream that some day I would follow Horace Greeley's injunction and go west. In the army after World War I and faced with an economy-minded Congress, the word got out that there would be drastic cuts in appropriations with consequent reductions in the services, and learning of vacancies in the National Park Service, I took a Civil Service examination, passed and was accepted, with a choice of Yosemite National Park or Grand Canyon National Park. I chose the latter for to me it meant the frontier, Indians—the West. Seven days after severing my connection with the army, I found myself at the Grand Canyon. This was in July, 1922.

Almost immediately I started gathering material on the history of the southwest and the Indians of the region. This material consisted of not only the written word but of the Indian arts and crafts. The Grand Canyon was the Mecca for

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men in the sciences—anthropologists, geologists, paleontologists, botanists, ornithologists and those representative of kindred sciences—and artists, good and bad. Because travel to the Parks then was not what it is today, it was possible to meet and make the acquaintanceship of many of these men, friendships which last until today, even with the passage of almost 50 years. It was from these men and women that I received my early training in collecting and the knowledge that excellent materials could be obtained with an expenditure

of little money and in many instances, none at all.

One of the first institutions I learned of was the Government Printing Office and what it had to offer by way of publications of the Bureau of American Ethnology, a subdivision of the Smithsonian Institution. I learned, for instance, that the Bureau published an annual report — a weighty tome — plus occasional Bulletins—separates—of material dealing with Indian life, habits and customs, beautifully illustrated, written by men who were authorities in their particular fields of anthropology or ethnology, and which could be obtained for little cost. To cite a few examples, The Journal of Friedrich Kurz, a contemporary of George Catlin, sold for 60c; Swanton's Indian Tribes of North America, a relatively expensive bulletin, sold for \$3.50; Culbertson's Journal of an Expedition to the Upper Missouri in 1850 cost 75c; Benedict's Tales of the Cochiti Indians could be purchased for 40c. All of these bulletins in the present market will bring from \$10.00 to \$40.00. In all, 48 volumes of annual reports were published which ended this series, and 200 bulletins, most of which are now out of print and can only be purchased at a premium.

The National Park Service is responsible for a series of handbooks dealing with National Parks in the system and with the history and development of not only the west, but the entire United States. Again, these documents are relatively inexpensive, ranging in price from 25c to \$3.50, for the

handbooks.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs is producing a series of handbooks on the various Indian tribes in the United States and these can be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents at prices ranging from 15c to 25c.

The Government Printing Office is a veritable treasure trove of informative materials, from that mentioned above to Safe Use of Hand and Portable Power Tools at 35c to Hall-Effect Magnetometers in Scientific Rocket Payloads at the same price. All one has to do in order to get these lists, which are mailed out weekly, is to ask the Superintendent of Docu-

ments to place one's name on his mailing list.

The various states also carry on a publishing program and here again documents concerning the history and development of a particular state are obtainable in many instances at little or no cost. To cite a few examples: The Division of Mines of the State of California has, over the years, published a series on the geology of the state. In addition to geological information contained in these bulletins, one will also find much of the history of the region involved. Some of these bulletins are Geological Guidebook Along Highway 49 - Sierran Gold Belt - The Mother Lode Country which was published in 1948 and sold for \$1.00. It was reprinted several times, but unfortunately is now out of print. However, the State Division of Mines hopes to get out another reprint, for it is a publication very much in demand. Another such Bulletin was The Elephant As They Saw It published in 1949, also selling for \$1.00. This was listed as "A Collection of Contemporary Pictures and Statements on Gold Mining in California." Another bulletin is Fabricas published in 1952, and described as "A Collection of Pictures and Statements on the Mineral Materials Used in Building in California Prior to 1850." A bulletin, #154, published in 1951, is of local history, being Geologic Guidebook of the San Francisco Bay Counties: History, Landscape, Geology, Fossils, Minerals, Industry, and Routes To Travel, all of this encompassed in 392 pages, plus dozens of illustrations and a geologic map, for \$2.50.

The California State Division of Beaches and Parks has produced a series of leaflets covering the various State Parks and Monuments, as well as a very authoritative set of bibliographies of Indian tribes. The former are distributed gratis as were the bibliographies. In addition, they have published a series of archaeological reports which sell for \$1.00 to \$1.50

each.

The State of Washington has published an Official History of the Washington National Guard in seven volumes. These volumes, which are mimeographed and in wrappers, tell the complete military story of Washington from territorial days to the Korean conflict. They have also produced a volume titled Collection of Official Documents on the San Juan Imbroglio, 1859-1872. This details the events leading up to "The Pig War" with Great Britain and covers also the final arbitration of the incident by the Emperor of Germany. This volume and the seven volumes of military history are available

upon request, without charge.

Collectors for many years have overlooked material in popular periodicals. In many instances, the collector will find the first printing of material which later appeared in book form, in such periodicals. To cite a few such instances: Ruxton's Life in the Far West first appeared in Blackwood's Magazine in the June to November, 1848, issues; J. Ross Browne's A Tour Through Arizona in Harper's New Monthly Magazine, October 1864, to March, 1865, issues; My Life on the Plains by General George A. Custer originally appeared in Galaxy Magazine, January, 1872, through October, 1874; Brewerton's Incidents of Travel in New Mexico and Overland With Kit Carson in Harper's New Monthly Magazine August, 1853, April, 1854, and September, 1862. These articles were published in book form by Coward-McCann, Inc., in 1930, with editing by Stallo Vinton. Incidentally, part of this series was reprinted by our own Lewis Osborne earlier this year, as was Godfrey's Custer's Last Battle which appeared originally in Century Magazine for January, 1892. This is to name but a very few—there are many, many more.

Are you interested in the work of the men who illustrated the west? Then go to the periodical literature. Here you will find Remington, Russell, Schreyvogel, Bierstadt, Thomas and Peter Moran, Lungren, Dixon, Tom Hill, and on and on ad infinitum. It would be safe to say that just about every painter of the western scene who reached prominence in his field at one

time or another illustrated for periodicals of the day.

become quite rare. The Nickell Magazine is a case in point. The December, 1896, issue ran an article by W. Kent Thomas on the Custer fight and the author's interview with Rain-inthe-Face. Although what was said in the interview has been discredited in part, yet a student of the Custer fight will find reference after reference to this article. In passing, perhaps mention should be made that the last time I saw this item quoted in a catalogue, the price was \$35.00, and that was three years ago. Let me cite one other instance This being a centennial of Major John Wesley Powell's first trip down the Colorado River, it would be apropos to refer to his writings which appeared in popular periodicals. Many such appeared in Scribner's, Century and Popular Science, and with illustrations by Thomas Moran.

A great bargain in western materials is obtained by membership in state historical societies and the various Westerner groups throughout the country. Annual dues, for which one receives the quarterly publications, run from \$2.00 to \$5.00. These are state supported institutions; membership in privately endowed and operated societies, for the most part, runs considerably more. Corresponding memberships in Westerner groups (Corrals and/or Posses) will average \$4.50 per year. Some of these groups publish monthly, others quarterly.

I was never one to turn my nose up at revised editions. For study purposes an edited revised edition was often more valuable than the first printing. A case in point would be Bonner's Life and Adventures of James Beckwourth published in 1856. On today's market this book would bring in excess of \$50.00: I prefer the Devoto edition of 1931 for study purposes. The Benavides Memorial Of 1630, originally published in 1916, fetches about \$125.00. However, one can get the 1954 edition for \$4.00, and in 1965 a facsimile edition was brought out for \$7.50. This Memorial originally appeared in Land of Sunshine, September 1900-March 1901, and can be purchased for considerably less. Connelly's Overland Stage to California, Conrad's Uncle Dick Wooton, Marsh's Four Years in the Rockies, Alter's James Bridger, Bourke's On the Border With Crook were all reprinted by Long's College Book Company of Columbus. Ohio, at prices ranging from \$5.00 to \$10.00.

There were many other titles in this collection, including a reprint of the Wagner-Camp The Plains and the Rockies which sold for \$15.00, and the Cowan A Bibliography of the History of California and the Pacific West which sold for the

same price.

The University of Oklahoma Press and the University of Nebraska Press are performing a great service for the collector in reprinting in their Frontier and Bison Series respectively, many of the old western classics that, in the original editions, would be beyond the means of a young collector, or one whose

means are, of necessity, limited.

Watching "remainder house" catalogs can be very rewarding. Just recently I purchased a copy of Miles' Indian and Eskimo Artifacts of North America published at \$25.00, for half that. This was a mint copy, first printing. Robert Taft's Artists and Illustrators of the Old West, 1850-1900, published by Scribner's in 1953, to sell for \$8.50, the definitive work in my opinion in this field, was remaindered at \$4.98, and a bit later on at \$1.98. Recently, a dealer has offered to pay \$35.00 for a copy. A Los Angeles dealer in a Spring, 1968, catalogue listed it at that price also. A number of years ago, Chittenden's American Fur Trade of the Far West in two volumes, and Sabin's Kit Carson Days were remaindered at \$7.50 for each set. Within the past couple of years, I have seen the first listed in catalogues at \$52.50 and the Sabin at \$48.50. These sets were first printings of the titles by The Press of the Pioneers. I'm sure others have had like experiences.

Many times I have found that taking time to write a letter and asking questions can be very rewarding. For instance, not too long ago I saw quoted in a catalogue Howay's Voyages of the "Columbia" to the Northwest Coast, 1787-1790 and 1790-1793, at \$22.50. This was a publication in 1941 of the Massachusetts Historical Society. I wrote the Society asking if this publication was still available and if so, the cost. It was, and I paid \$10.00 for it, which was the price it was originally sold for. On another occasion, after seeing a quotation on a volume in the Contributions to North American Ethnology at some \$28.50, I wrote to the Department of the Interior asking if this publication (1890) was still available and if so,

the cost. The reply to my inquiry stated that if I sent them 25 or 30c in stamps—I have forgotten which—they would be happy to send me a copy. I did and they did. The volume was still in the plain, brown paper wrapper, brittle with age but the volume in mint condition. These are just two instances of what I like to term "rewards" for being interested enough to take the time to write a letter and ask questions. The results

are usually good.

Don't overlook the publications of various corporations, such as the California Inter-State Telephone Company of San Bernardino, the PGE, Wells Fargo Bank and the productions of the Title Insurance and Trust Company under the able authorship of our friend, W. W. Robinson. These publications are distributed gratis and if you are under the delusion that because they are free, they are worthless, take a look at dealer's catalogues quoting prices on some of them after they have gone out of print. And better still, just try to get some of them. You will find in many instances that they are scarcer than the

proverbial hen's teeth.

I shall close this dissertation with the telling of an incident that happened some 18 years ago. For some time, I had been trying to obtain the June to November, 1848, issues of Blackwood's Magazine which contained Ruxton's Life in the Far West, previously mentioned. I was in Southern California and asked a dealer friend of mine if, by chance, he had this run. Without answering "yes" or "no" he said "Would you, by chance, be after the Ruxton papers?" and when I told him I was, he said "I have the set, but I'm afraid they are too rich for your blood." Upon my return to Sacramento, I wrote Blackwood's a letter to which they replied in nine days, stating they had the run and were sending them to me. An invoice was inclosed for 15 shillings for the six issues, plus 2 shillings postage, a total of 17 shillings. This came to \$2 and some cents. Not having nerve enough to send them the exact amount the invoice called for, I sent them my check in the amount of \$3.00, with my thanks. By return mail, I received a reply acknowledging receipt of my check - as gracious a letter as I have ever received—and informing me that because they received 1 pound sterling for my \$3.00 check, they were

placing 3 shillings to my credit, assuring me of their "best attention should you, at any future date, favour us with a further order." Two years later, in 1953, I became interested in the Louis Riel Rebellion of the Metis in Canada. In my reading, I found a bibliographical reference to a series in Blackwood's "By an Officer of the British Expeditionary Force" who I later found out was First Viscount Garnet Joseph (Wolseley). This series appeared in the December, 1870, and January and February, 1871, issues of the magazine. I had picked up in a shop the December, 1870, issue so what I needed were the January and February, 1871, issues. So I decided to try my luck again. After all, I had been assured, hadn't I, that "best attention" would be paid to future orders? So, I wrote Blackwood's asking if the two numbers lacking were available. I wrote on December 18th. Their reply was dated January 9th stating they could only furnish me with the February 1871, issue, as the other was out of print, closing with their regretting their "inability, on this occasion to have been of better service" and inclosing an invoice in the amount of 2 shillings, 9 pence. By this time, I was curious to know just how far our British cousins would go, so I wrote them calling attention to the fact that I had a credit with them of 3 shillings. This letter was dated the 30th of January; their reply is dated February 23rd, and to be appreciated I shall quote it in its entirety:

"Dear Mr. Harrison:

Thank you for your letter of 30th January.

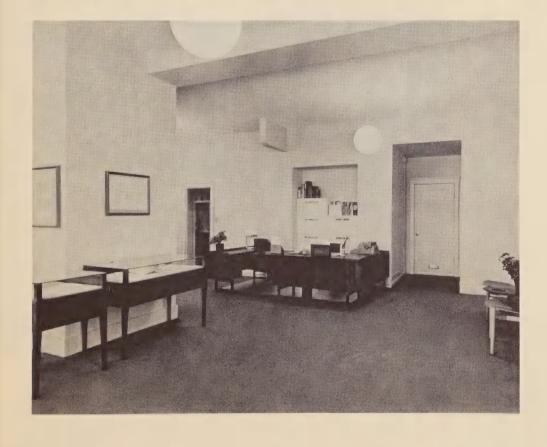
Your statement anent the 3/- (three shillings) at your credit is definitely correct and we tender you our sincere apologies for rendering an account for the February 1871 issue of Blackwood's Magazine.

Thanking you for your courteous treatment of this

error on our part.

Yours Sincerely, (C. A. Archibald) For William Blackwood & Sons, Limited.''

# BOOK CLUB SCALIFORNIA











Compare this treatment with that accorded a like inquiry to an American periodical publisher. It has been my experience that your inquiry is ignored or you are advised to look up a secondhand magazine dealer—and this, mind you, when you have asked for an issue of the previous year or even later.

"Long Rule Brittania" say I.

In closing let me make this remark. Every item in my library is cross-indexed and catalogued on cards housed in a battery of 216 steel file drawers in a bank six drawers high and 36 drawers wide, which, at the present time, contain approximately 275,000 cards, set up by authors and names, title, subject (about 350) Indian tribes and presses and periodicals. It is essentially a research library which is made available to scholars and others doing serious research on the history and development of the West.

When I started collecting this material some 47 years ago, it was also my dream that some day the collection would be turned over to an institution that would make it available to scholars and others to a greater degree than I have been able to

do. This is in the process of being close to realization.

#### PAUL A. BISSINGER

1905 - 1969

In October of this year Paul Bissinger died while on a visit to London. It is not for us to speak of his service to the city of San Francisco, as a police commissioner, president of the Chamber of Commerce, etc., but as a longtime member of the Club. In 1953 he was elected to the Board of Directors, serving as chairman of the Membership Committee. In 1955 he became treasurer of the Club, a position he held for three years. Among his numerous activities mention should be made of his interest in printing. In the late thirties he acquired a hand press and issued charming keepsakes for private distribution. It was his plan to resume this hobby. Paul Bissinger will be sadly missed by his many friends in the Book Club, which he served so faithfully.

D.M.

#### BEATRICE WARDE

1900 - 1969

It is with deep sorrow that we record the sudden and untimely death in England of Beatrice Warde, on September 14 at her home in Epsom, Surrey. Many members will recall this vivacious and extremely erudite lady whose abiding interests were typography and printing. She visited the Club on two occasions, and on the last was given a special luncheon by the

Roxburghe Club of San Francisco.

For over forty years, through articles, books and speeches, Mrs. Warde had been a prime influence on the student-printers of England—and the world. Her absorbing interest in type and printing began when she was an assistant to the great Henry Lewis Bullen of the American Type Founders. After a stint of study at the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris, Mrs. Warde published an article on the origins of Garamond types under the pen name of Paul Beaujon. With the publication of this article in *The Fleuron*, she became an "instant" authority as a new voice in the history of type faces. She became editor of the Monotype Corporation's *Recorder* and the company's publicity director; also she was associated with Stanley Morison and the great Eric Gill in the development of their famous typefaces.

During World War II, she helped organize the relief for distressed British children and arrange for many of these to be placed in homes in America. With her mother, May Lamberton Becker, the well-known writer and editor of *The Reader's Guide*, she founded the "Books Across the Sea" program to further British and American alliance. After the war, she became a director of the English Speaking Union and spent

much of her retired years travelling and giving talks.

Beatrice Warde will be long remembered—if for nothing more than her famous inscription for a printing office which hangs today in many of the great printing establishments of the world:

THIS IS A PRINTING OFFICE

\*

CROSS-ROADS OF CIVILIZATION
REFUGE OF ALL THE ARTS
AGAINST THE RAVAGES OF TIME
ARMORY OF FEARLESS TRUTH
AGAINST WHISPERING RUMOR
INCESSANT TRUMPET OF TRADE

\*

FROM THIS PLACE WORDS MAY FLY ABROAD
NOT TO PERISH ON WAVES OF SOUND
NOT TO VARY WITH THE WRITER'S HAND
BUT FIXED IN TIME, HAVING BEEN
VERIFIED BY PROOF
FRIEND, YOU STAND ON SACRED GROUND
THIS IS A PRINTING OFFICE

#### Elected to Membership

The following have been elected since the publication of the Fall News-Letter:

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nento Membership Committee
ancisco Robert Bell
nd Hobert M. Lovett
ethtown, N.Y. Michael Ginsberg
ancisco Harriet Henderson
Santa Fe Membership Committee
ancisco Membership Committee
na Charles P. Yale
ancisco R. L. Goldman
dro Charles P. Yale
ancisco Frieda Ferguson
ancisco Dorothy Whitnah

#### New Sustaining Members

The two classifications of membership above Regular Membership are Patron Memberships, \$100 a year, and Sustaining Memberships, \$30 a year. The following have entered the Club as Sustaining Members, or changed from Regular to Sustaining Membership:

Elaine Boylan
Don C. Dickinson
John R. Geary, M.D.
G. W. Magladry, M.D.
Richard L. Swig

San Francisco Rancho Santa Fe Mill Valley Redding San Francisco

#### Vacation Schedule

The Club rooms will be closed from December 25th through January 4th.

# Book Acquisitions

By Albert Sperisen

The apparent slow pace of our book acquisitions might well be suspected by the subject and title of our latest purchase. In deference, however, your hard working committee will only admit to the fact that this book is indeed a "sleeper." It is the first book set by a mechanical method—the Young and Delcambre Composing machine. The title of this unusual and exceedingly scarce book is *The Anatomy of Sleep; or The Art of Procuring Sound and Refreshing Slumber at Will* by Dr. Edward Binns, London: John Churchill, 1842. The book is in fair condition with its original stamped cloth binding. The title page is a

romantic chromolithograph in six colors.

The Young and Delcambre machine was the first practical type-setting machine to be used in a printing office. It was invented and patented by J. H. Young and Adrien Delcambre, assisted by Henry Bessemer. (It was this Henry who invented a process for manufacturing steel, which still bears his name, and whose father Anthony worked as a punch-cutter for the firm of Caslon where he cut a range of modern-face types including 4½ point Diamond.) The Young and Delcambre machine was primarily intended for newspaper work and it was used to print the Family Herald in 1842. The machine was capable of setting six thousand letters an hour—as against an accomplished hand compositor of between one and two thousand. Ordinary type-founders type was used and arranged in magazines or tubes, one for each capital

and lower-case letter, spaces and signs for punctuation. An operator sat at a keyboard and as the appropriate key was depressed, a character would slide down the tube to a place of assembly where a second operator would justify and space the type for its proper measure. A third person kept the magazines filled with type. (The use of the machine was opposed by the London Union of Compositors because female labor was employed to operate it.)

This lucky find in England adds greatly to our collection of "firsts" in

mechanical type composition.

COLIN FRANKLIN, The Private Presses. London, Studio Vista, 1969. Mr. Franklin is a dedicated collector turned writer on "his thing"—the primary private presses of England since Daniel, with a small diversion to America (including a mention of the Grabhorns) and the Continent. He indulges in an occasional backward glance at the Strawberry Hill Press, Whittingham, Bodoni and various early printers. His re-evaluation of the revival presses and what prompted them borders on the fanatic. Clearly, he is more of an antiquarian than a modern. But he writes so well that even the know-it-all collector will be fascinated. There are some faults which are unfortunate. (The book was produced for Studio in Holland, and this may account for these errors—but not excuse them.) However, much of these will be overlooked and mentally corrected by most collectors. Unfortunately, for the novice these errors could be hurtful. And too, Mr. Franklin's enthusiasm runs away with him—like trying to make a case for the Caradoc Press or for Ashbee's Essex House "Endeavour" typeface. But these are small faults. Franklin has the rare ability to communicate his enthusiasm and collecting-enjoyment to the reader. At the end of this enjoyable book, he has added a "Select Bibliography of Private Presses with some Recent Auction Prices' compiled for him by David Lincoln. A "select" list of anything is almost always a disappointment; and the pricing is of guestionable value. It could be of some use to an investor or possibly an insurance man-but it could well act as a deterrent to a young collector.

Nancy Cunard, These were the Hours, Memories of My Hours Press, Reanville and Paris, 1928-1931. Edited and with a foreword by Hugh Ford. Southern Illinois University Press, 1969.

Nancy Cunard, the tempestuous "Golden Girl" and toast of the Twenties, died in 1965 at the age of 68. She typified much of the avant-garde and expatriate Paris of the late Twenties and early Thirties. She was painted by Kokoschka and sculptured by Brancusi, photographed by Man Ray and (very prettily) by Cecil Beaton. She was ideal copy for columnists, and some of her escapades are still being written about. (Iris Tree did a story on her for a recent issue of *Harper's* 

Bazaar.) In 1928, Nancy Cunard founded her now famous Hours Press in Normandy. She bought her equipment from William Bird, an American newspaper man who had run a successful private press which he called Three Mountains Press. From the beginning until the closing of the press in 1931, she published a literary list of greats which would have been the envy of any established publisher. Included were Ezra Pound, Robert Graves, Samuel Beckett (whom she discovered), George Moore, Richard Aldington, Norman Douglas—twenty-four precious books all distinguished for their writers.

This new book is the first full account by the proprietress-printerpublisher of a most interesting private press, and it corrects the original check list that was compiled by her for an early issue of *The Book* 

Collector.

THE CLUB has just received five new poetry booklets—three from the New Broom Press and two from the Offcut Press, both of Leicester, England. Suddenly, our conscience bothers us. These new additions to our library of modern private printing are but a few of the many sent us since 1960 by Toni Savage, the proprietor of these two presses. We did review one of these some while back, but the story of this "Saga of Savage" or of his alter ego, has not been told. We have found this

unusual and we believe that members will find it interesting.

Since 1960 when his first (?) press was called Orpheus, Mr. Savage has printed under at least five aliases. The Pandora Press was his longest lived operation—to date. (This many-named concept would appear to be an excellent device for getting multiple listings in any private press index.) Most of these earlier press books were illustrated by Rigby Graham. All of them were printed from hand-set type, usually Bembo, Walbaum or Baskerville, with illustrations in two colors—one hand-colored. The editions ran between 50 and 150 copies, and are all hand-sewn in illustrated paper wrappers. The authors are as varied as the printing. Under Pandora, most were reprints of early poets, like Swinburne, Marvell, Wilde, etc., but currently under the New Broom and Offcut imprint, Toni Savage is printing the work of modern poets like Spike Milligan, Boyd Lichfield, Geoff Smedley, Abigail Fawcett, etc. And the prices are beyond comprehension. Some were sold for 15 shillings, some for 18 shillings and one for as low as 5 shillings! Just how this is done today is a tantalizing mystery.

In the Spring 1966 issue of *The Private Library*, Rigby Graham wrote the story of the Pandora Press—and Graham is as gifted a writer as he is an illustrator. Here we learn that the printing was done on a second-hand Adana table press which manages a sheet eight by ten inches. (For those would-be printers who might be interested but cannot find, afford or have space for a Washington-type hand press, the Adana press is still being manufactured in England. A catalogue may

be had by writing Adana Printing Machines, Ltd., Dept. P.P.B.1, 15-19 Church Street, Twickenham, Middlesex.) It should be pointed out here that with all of the various press names, and all of the experience of pieces printed, Toni Savage's press work is not one of his better qualities. It is possible, in deference to this lack of quality, that much might be blamed on this old second-hand press. In the article, Graham states that "it needs plenty of hope and optimism to print books on one of these." But he continues, "Too many private press operators get carried away by typographic niceties, the finer points of leading, spacing, impression, inking and show-through (they take pride in make-ready), that the text and illustrations become little more than vehicles for demonstrating the skill of the printer". Well!—with this statement as their "Credo," it is small wonder why these precious booklets are not better printed. Nonetheless, we are grateful to Toni Savage for his many gifts and any interested member may see a selection of his many-named press booklets at the Club rooms.

A.S.

## Book Reviews

George D. Brewerton, A Ride with Kit Carson Across the Great American Desert and Through the Rocky Mountains. Lewis Osborne, Palo Alto, California, 1969. 108 pp. \$15.00.

When George D. Brewerton, presumably during 1853, put pen to paper to describe for readers of *Harper's New Monthly Magazine* a journey he made from Los Angeles to Taos five years earlier, he promised his readers that his account would be no dull recital of scientific facts. "I have had a horror of the 'ologies' ever since my days of schoolboy experience," he announced. "I shall therefore confine myself to such scenes of incident and adventure as might prove most interesting; and—thanks to Indians, hard travel and harder fare—I think there will be no lack of incident."

Brewerton was as good as his word. His narrative is lively and filled with sharply drawn vignettes of frontier life. His description of finding the arrow-pierced skeleton of an American trapper and his story of the summary discipline inflicted on his servant illustrate Brewerton's gift for bringing the sounds and smells and sights of the early West into

today's living room.

But A Ride with Kit Carson is more than a good tale. It is a primary historical source of considerable value. It constitutes one of the very few extant accounts of travel over the Old Spanish Trail that linked New Mexico with California during the 1830's and '40's. Unfortunately, Brewerton had to write from memory and therefore, as the introduction by George R. Stewart carefully points out, a number of factual errors

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